

TORPEDO ALLEY



Vol. 11, No.7

Jul 2015

Newsletter of Charleston Base, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.

Base Meeting:

BOD: 2 Jul., 1800

Membership: 9 Jul, 1900

Location:

Fleet Reserve Association Branch 26

Low Country Home

99 Wisteria Rd.



Base Commander	Rick Wise	843.875.5559
Vice Commander	<u>Rick Sparger</u>	843.553.5594
Secretary	<u>Mike Ciesielko</u>	843.324.0011
Treasurer	Mike Welch	843.300.9022

Chief of the Boat	<u>Ken Hutchison</u>	843.553.0935
Veterans Affairs	<u>Ken Curtis</u>	843.797.1268
Membership	<u>Rick Sparger</u>	843.553.5594
Scholarship	<u>George Scharfe</u>	843.873.3318
Storekeeper	Ron Chambers	843.821.2268
Historian	<u>George Scharfe</u>	843.873.3318
Public Affairs	Tom Clark	843.871.8923
Chaplain	<u>Nick Nichols</u>	843.452.3189
Holland Club	<u>Bill Freligh</u>	843.553.1115
Newsletter	<u>George Fuchs</u>	941.580.2333
Webmaster	<u>Nick Nichols</u>	843.452.3189
Kaps for Kids	<u>Walt Deal</u>	843.871.4143



Submarines Lost During the Month of July

USS S-28 (SS 133)	July 4, 1944 – Training Exercise	LOST WITH ALL HANDS 50 SOULS
USS ROBALO (SS 273)	July 26, 1944 – 3 rd War patrol	LOST WITH 78 MEN; 4 DIED AS POW'S; 82 SOULS
USS GRUNION (SS 216)	July 30, 1942 – 1 ST War patrol	LOST WITH ALL HANDS 70 SOULS

THREE Boats and 202 Men Lost

Chaplain's Corner—HE RENEWS OUR STRENGTH

But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)

When we sincerely lift our hearts and prayers to God, He renews our strength. Are you almost too weary to lift your head? Then bow it. Offer your concerns and your fears to your Father in heaven. He is always at your side, offering His love and His strength.

Are you troubled or anxious? Take your anxieties to God in prayer. Are you weak or worried? Delve deeply into God's Holy Word and sense His presence in the quiet moments of the day. Are you spiritually exhausted? Call upon fellow believers to support you, and call upon Him to renew your spirit and your life. Your Lord will never let you down. To the contrary, He will always lift you up if you ask Him to. So what are you waiting for?

—A Prayer for Today—

Heavenly Father, sometimes I am troubled, and sometimes I grow weary. When I am weak, Lord, give me strength. When I am discouraged, renew me. When I am fearful, let me feel your healing touch. Let me always trust in your promises, Lord, and let me draw strength from those promises and from your love. Amen.

USSVI Charleston Base Meeting Minutes

The attendance for the June 2015 meeting was 83.

Opening Ceremonies: The meeting was called to order by Base Vice Commander Rick Sparger. A quorum was present and the meeting started at 1900. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Invocation and the Tolling of the Boats lost in June was given by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols. The USSVI Creed was read by Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko. Rick welcomed the members and guests to the meeting.

Admiral James B. Osborn Scholarship Awards: The Base Vice Commander introduced Scholarship Committee Chairman George Scharf. George introduced the other member of the Scholarship Committee, Gary Williams. He then presented the scholarships to the recipients. George Scharf presented a \$750 scholarship to Hayley Fowler from Stratford High. Sponsor is Ricard Alfano Hayley will be attending Clemson. \$850 Scholarship to Haliagh Clutters from Bishop England High school. Her sponsor is Tim Clutters and she is the Granddaughter of STCM (SS) Joseph Zilker. Haleigh will be attending Mississippi State. \$1000 Scholarship to Katheryn Lebaron from Charleston County school of the Arts. Her sponsor is Thomas L. Cyrek. Katheryn will be attending USC Honors classes.

Following the presentations and pictures, Base Vice Commander

Rick Sparger congratulated the recipients and thanked them and their families and friends for coming and asked the guests to leave so we could continue our meeting.

Introductions: The following was a new attendee to Charleston Base meetings: EN3(SS) Linden G. Almony, Qual Boat: USS Runner SS 476; MT2(SS) Thomas W. Timm, Qual Boat USS Henry L Stimson SSBN 655.

Secretary: Base Secretary Mike Ciesielko reported that the May meeting minutes had published in the newsletter and on the base website. Mike asked the group for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Edgel Hash made a motion to approve the May meeting minutes as published. The motion was seconded by Ed Bowles.

Treasurer: Base Treasurer Mike Welch gave a report on the Charleston Base finances. The base financial report is now located as a password protected file on the base website under Documents and Resources. The password is the same as needed for the Sailing List.

Newsletter: George Fuchs had nothing to report.

Chaplain and Webmaster: Base Chaplain and Webmaster Nick Nichols gave the following report:

June Report:

Highlighted boat of the month:

HERRING SS-233 was lost on June 1st, 1944 with the loss of 83 men near Matsuwa Island. HERRING was on her 8th war patrol and was conducting a surface attack when a shore battery spotted her and made 2 direct hits on her conning tower causing her loss. Before being sunk, she had sank a freighter and a passenger-cargoman. HERRING was the only US submarine sunk by a land battery.

- Happy Birthday to **Willie Jones!!** His 90th Birthday is this month.
- **VADM Albert J. Bacciocco** departed on Eternal Patrol on May 22nd, 2015. His funeral will be held on Saturday, June 13th, at 1000 at Stella Maris Catholic Church on Sullivan's Island. Charleston Base will not be involved in the service but please make plans to attend to show the family the support of the Submarine Force. Uniform will be the vest uniform.
- **FTCM(SS) Johnnie Wayne Foster** departed on Eternal Patrol on Friday, June 5th. His Memorial Service will be held at 1500 on Saturday, June 13th, in Marion. Many of us knew him because of the amount of time he was stationed in Charleston. Johnnie was the COB of Stonewall Jackson Blue 1984-1989. He was not a member of SUBVETS.
- **Steve Everett** was diagnosed with breast cancer and had

cancer surgery yesterday. About 2100 last night I received an email from him saying the doctors got the mass cut out and surgeons initial thought is that the mass is benign. They will know for sure by Wednesday of next week. He's also waiting on the BRACCA test to see if he has the cancer gene and that will be known in about a month. Wanted me to tell you all thanks for the prayers for him and his family and added: Love you guys!

- **Walt Deal** had his left hip replaced on Tuesday. He called me that evening to say the surgery went well and he will be going to rehab tomorrow.
 - **Rich Alkire** had a procedure on his carotid artery on June 1st and he is not doing well. Please call him if you can..
 - **Kit Sparger** had surgery on May 29th on her left leg. Surgery went well.
 - **Tom Skorepa** has been undergoing radiation treatment for prostate cancer. The treatment has left him tired. Please give him a call if you have a chance.
 - **Roy Robertson** had surgery on his right hand and arm. Everything went well with the operation but he is having to learn to use his left hand....for everything!
 - **Mike Knaub's** ankle continues to give him problems.
- Frenchy Fuqua** is here tonight.

Discussed VA Chapels and presumed removal of all things Christian. Talked to retired Navy Captain, Chaplain Ross Rector. Always been that way.

SCP (Shipmate Contact Program) is still going well. Please checkup on your shipmates and let them know you care about their wellbeing. I'm asking you to:

- Take a look at the Sailing List and contact at least 4 shipmates during this coming month (1 per week).
- Contact can be by email but phone is preferred
- Contact someone outside your table of friends; someone you don't see at the meeting.
- Make no reports unless you feel there's something I need to know about.

Several follow-ups were made on those who've had surgery or illnesses in the last couple of months along with the base sending additional cards.

If you know of shipmates or spouses from other bases who are having a difficult time, had surgery, etc. and would like for USSVI Charleston Base to send them a card please send their name and address to the Chaplain via email or phone call.

Webmaster: Nick Nichols website is being updated as best as it can be. Nick just got his computer back on track.

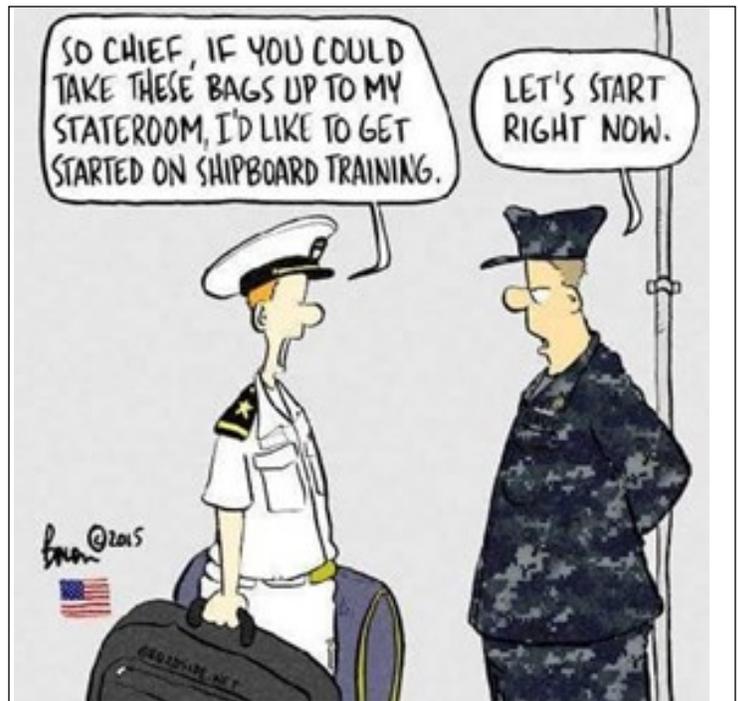
Membership: Ed Stank reported that base membership is now 331 members and 1 new member at tonight's meeting. We are buying membership cards for people that don't have one. Ed announced that we are having a picnic at the Victory House next Tuesday 16 June.

Public Affairs: Tom Clark had nothing to report.

Storekeeper: Ron Chambers had nothing to report.

Veterans Affairs: Ken Curtis had nothing to report.

FRA: Larry Cox was not present. The Vice Commander reported



on Larry's behalf that there is a good ole Navy breakfast on Sunday 14 June from 9 am to 11 am. \$5 per person.

Scholarship: George Scharf reported that there is a car show planned for the first weekend in October. We gave away \$2600 in Scholarships funds this year.

Submarine Veterans of World War II: George Scharf reminded the base that Swamp Fox will have a meeting on Thursday, June 18 at 1100 at Golden Corral in North Charleston. \$12 per person.

CRAMA: Butch Bryar reported that Joe Danning is still working with the ways and means committee about funding. Butch is working with the weapons station on getting artifacts and stuff for the boat. We have been offered to go field day to clean up the boat.

Nuclear Historian: Rick Carlson related the following:

Back and forth.... Back and forth....

In and out....In and out.

A little to the right.... A little to the left....

She could feel the sweat on her forehead....

Between her breasts....and, trickling down the small of her back....

She was getting near to the end....!!

He was in ecstasy....with a huge smile on his face as his buddy's wife moved Forwards then backwards Forward then backward....

Again and again....!!

Her heart was pounding now....

Her face was flushed !

She moaned softly at first, then began to groan louder.

Finally ... totally exhausted, she let out a piercing scream and shouted.

OK OK you smug bastard I can't parallel park You do it!

The After Battery: Steve "Buddha" Nelms had nothing to report.

District Commander: District Commander had nothing to report.

Chief of the Boat: Rick Sparger reported for the COB. The FRA elections went well. Every single subvet that ran for a position won. Thanks for the attendance.

The picnic went well everyone had a great time both Subvets and FRA both made \$138 dollars apiece. Due to people not bringing items back to storage facility the combo has been changed and only the COB, Commander and Vice Commander will have the combination.

Rick asked for Volunteers for the Rec Committee.

Old Business: Charlie Hudson gave a float update. \$560 dollars were spent the float trailer was stripped and repainted and new boxes were donated by Rick Carlsons son.

New Business: Gordon Smith presented a collage of WWII Cigarette patches from the Portsmouth UK Subvets. It was presented to Carl Chinn for the Charleston Base Subvets.

Good of the Order:

The depth charge was won by Ronnie Vandiver. He won \$247 and donated \$100 to the WWII Subvets for Lunches.

Meeting Adjourned: Following the benediction by Base Chaplain Nick Nichols, the Base Vice Commander adjourned the meeting at 2000.

Up-Coming Events for USSVICB

No events reported.

Subvets Wives Club

The SubVets Wives held their regular luncheon at Logan's Restaurant in Azalea Square on 15 July. Next month's luncheon will be held at a site to be determined

The CSS David and the USSVI Charleston Base Little David Project

No project updates have been reported.

Victory House Report:

On Tuesday, June 16th, 7 members of Charleston Base met at the Victory House (VH) in Walterboro to cook and serve hamburgers and hotdogs to more than 70 residents and staff. The following base members made the trip to the VH: Clete Hash, Jeff Reur, Ed Stank, Robby Roberts, Thom Beach, Charlie Hudson and Nick Nichols. Everyone was very involved with ensuring the residents were well fed. It was extremely hot outside where the grill was located and the cooks definitely lost a few pounds while making sure the tube steak and sliders were done to perfection. Once the meat was done and brought inside to the cafeteria, the VH staff immediately jumped in and began helping us serve up the food. BZs to Ed Stank and Charlie Hudson who took the time to get everything together and ready for this adventure. The picnic was very well received by the VH residents and staff. Those of us who made the trip were well thanked by all of them...but we received the blessings and should have thanked them for allowing us to be there. For those who are not aware, there are two resident submariners at VH, RMCM(SS) Tackett and FTCS(SS) McDevitt. I have some pictures on the website to show what fun we had: <http://ussvicb.org/activity-pics/150616VHpicnic/index.html>. Our next

picnic is in the planning stages for this fall (after it cools off) so be prepared to join in and have fun.

Arlington National Cemetery

There is an app for apple and android devices that helps you locate anyone buried there. All you need it their name. You can get all the info about location, view their tombstone, etc. For those who know persons buried there it is very handy. It is a free app from your app store. Havent checked about PC's.

The app is ANCESPLORER

FRA News

Agent Orange Presumption Expanded, but Not for Blue Water Navy Veterans

Despite the VA's irrational opposition to helping Blue Water Navy veterans, the agency has expanded presumption for exposure to Agent Orange for a select group of Air Force and Air Force Reserve veterans who served in Vietnam. It is now presumed these service members were exposed to the herbicide Agent Orange through regular and repeated contact with contaminated C-123 aircraft that had been used as part of Operation Ranch Hand (ORH). As a result, the VA can immediately begin providing benefits to this veteran population who submit a disability compensation claim for any of the 14 medical conditions that have been determined to be related to exposure to Agent Orange.

"I am pleased the VA has finally ended the wait and will now provide disability benefits for the Air Force veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange," said Senator Kirstin Gillibrand (N.Y.). "However, there are still hundreds of thousands of Blue Water Navy veterans who are being denied benefits they need and deserve because of a technicality in the law. Congress owes it to the Blue Water Navy veterans who bravely served our country and have fallen victim to Agent Orange-related diseases to finish the job by passing legislation that would finally solve this problem and provide access to the benefits they deserve."

FRA is supporting Senator Gillibrand's "Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act" (S. 681) and its House companion bill (H.R. 969, sponsored by N.Y. Rep. Chris Gibson), measures that would clarify a presumption for exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War for veterans who served off the coast of Vietnam, so-called Blue Water veterans. FRA National Executive Director (NED) Tom Snee regularly brings attention these concerns when he attends the quarterly Veterans Service and Military Service Organization (VSO/MSO) roundtable discussion, sponsored by Senate Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and the House Democratic Caucus. (See below.)

Members are urged to use the FRA Action Center (action.fra.org/action-center) to ask their U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators to support the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act.

FRA Meets with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Others

In addition to sharing FRA's concerns about Agent Orange exposure (see above), NED Snee also voiced FRA's perspective on several other concerns in the veterans' community. The discussion for this quarter's gathering of military and veterans organizations also focused on implementation of the Depart-

ment of Veterans Affairs (VA) Choice program, which is intended to allow veterans to use non-VA health care if they live more than 40 miles from a VA facility or have been waiting more than 30 days for an appointment at the VA. The discussion also focused on the VA's aging infrastructure, construction cost overruns and the lack of mental health professionals in the VA.

Dual BAH on the Chopping Block

The 2016 Senate National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA-S. 1376) includes a provision that will dramatically change how dual-service couple's Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) will be calculated. The Senate is proposing to authorize only to the higher-ranking member of a dual-service couple to receive BAH. Under current policy, service members who are married to one another, have no children and are assigned to the same location can each draw BAH at a lower "without dependents" rate. If the couple has a child, the more senior ranking member can draw BAH at a higher "with dependents" rate, while the other member continues to draw BAH at the lower "without" rate.

To put this matter in perspective, an E-6 living in the Washington, D.C. metro area receives BAH of \$2,016 per month as a single service member, and a single E-7 gets \$2,148/month. Under current regulations, a married couple with these ranks would jointly receive \$4,164 per month in BAH. If the proposed changes take effect, the E-7 would be eligible to receive \$2,553 in BAH and the E-6 would get \$0. Marriage would effectively reduce their collective housing allowance by \$1,611 a month—or \$19,332—over the course of a year.

If the same two single service members married civilians, their BAH would both be at the "with dependents" rate of \$2,463 for an E-6 and \$2,553 for an E-7, which is much more than if they married each other.

FRA opposes this provision, and the issue is listed on the FRA Action Center (action.fra.org/action-center). We strongly encourage all shipmates to use the FRA Action Center today to let your senators know that you oppose this provision. President Obama has also voiced strong opposition to the proposal and said that the targeted cuts to BAH would "impose a marriage penalty." An online petition is also aimed at stopping this proposal. If the petition (available at <https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/stop-senate-proposed-bill-specifically-unfairly-targets-and-limits-bah-benefits-dual-military-spouses>) garners 100,000 signatures, the White House will review the matter and provide an official response.

VA Drops Net Worth in Determining Eligibility

FRA applauds the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for eliminating the use of a veteran's net worth when determining eligibility for health care benefits and co-payments. Co-payments for veterans in the lowest Priority Groups (7 and 8) are higher than any other group. Dropping net worth will make some veterans in these categories eligible for higher-priority groups.

FRA believes that veterans have earned health care benefits through their demanding service to their country, regardless of their personal financial situation. Our nation made a commitment to all veterans in return for their service, and limiting eligibility for health care and co-payments conveys the wrong message to our service personnel currently serving

and those who have served in the past.

Support Agent Orange Blue Water Navy NDAA Amendment

A newly-filed amendment to the Senate version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA-S. 1376), sponsored by Senator Steve Daines (Mont.), expands Agent Orange presumption from only "boots on the ground" and "brown water" to include ships within the territorial waters of the Republic of Vietnam. This amendment would allow most "blue water" veterans who served off the coast of Vietnam to be compensated for service-connected disabilities related to their exposure to Agent Orange herbicide. Studies demonstrate that the desalinization process used on Australian and U.S. Navy ships off the coast of Vietnam magnified the exposure of the Agent Orange in the water. Past VA policy (1991–2001) allowed service members to file claims if they received the Vietnam Service Medal or Campaign Medal. Members are strongly urged to use the FRA Action Center (action.fra.org/action-center) to ask their senators to support this amendment.

Other amendments to the Senate NDAA listed on the Action Center include stopping pharmacy co-pay increases for retirees under age 65, concurrent receipt reform, increasing active duty/ reserve pay and BAH, and providing veterans status for 20-year reservists who were not mobilized. Members are encouraged to use the Action Center to weigh in on these important issues.

DoD Supports New Military Retirement System with Changes

After a long delay, the Department of Defense (DoD) has announced its support for a blended military retirement system—with some notable changes. Firstly, DoD recommends that the COLA minus one percent provision for military retirees who begin military service after January 1, 2016 be repealed. Both the House and Senate proposals allow for a lump sum payment to a service member at 12 years if he or she signs up for four more years. The DoD wants greater flexibility to offer lump sum payments anytime between eight and 16 years of service, and wants more flexibility in determining the size of the payment and the length of the service obligation. The DoD also wants a mandate for new service members to contribute three percent of their pay to Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) accounts, the federal employee equivalent to a 401(k) account, which will be matched by an employer contribution and may not be opted out of until the service member completes financial literacy training. For more details on the Pentagon's changes to the military retirement system, see Tom Philpott's June 11 2015 Military Update column on the FRA website.

Since February 2015, Congress has been debating the advantages and disadvantages of the 15 recommendations of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC). The first recommendation slashes future military retainer pay by 20 percent and moves future retirees into a blended retirement system. Troops would receive government contributions to Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) accounts, the federal employee equivalent of a 401(k) account. Both the House and Senate Defense Authorization bills include these provisions. The House version allows a government match of up to 5 percent and continues the match throughout the entire career. The Senate proposal pro-

vides only a 4 percent match (after two years of service) and stops government contributions at 20 years of service. This will be one of many differences between the two bills that will have to be resolved in conference committee. A conference committee will be appointed after both bills pass their respective chambers. The conference committee (made up of an equal number of senators and representatives) will draft the final version of the bill, which then will return to the House and Senate for a vote. If both chambers approve the bill it will be sent to the President, who will sign it into law or veto it.

Members are urged to use the FRA Action Center (action.fra.org/action-center) to weigh in on the proposed new retirement system.

SBP/DIC Offset Repeal Introduced in the Senate

Sen. Bill Nelson (Fla.) has introduced FRA-supported legislation (S. 979) that repeals the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) for surviving spouses to offset dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC). This is the Senate companion bill to legislation introduced in the House (HR 1594) sponsored by Rep. Joe Wilson.

SBP and DIC payments are paid for different reasons. SBP is purchased by the retiree and is intended to provide a portion of retired pay to the survivor. DIC is a special indemnity compensation paid to the survivor when a member's service causes his or her premature death. In such cases, the VA indemnity compensation should be added to the SBP the retiree paid for, not substituted for it. It should be noted as a matter of equity that surviving spouses of federal civilian retirees who are disabled veterans and die of military-service-connected causes can receive DIC without losing any of their federal civilian SBP benefits.

Members are strongly urged to use the FRA Action Center (action.fra.org/action-center) to ask their U.S. representative and senators to support these proposals.

Correction to SW Regional Convention Dates.

Southwest Regional Convention Dates Misprinted in June Issue of FRA Today

On page 30 of the June issue of FRA Today, we printed dates, locations, and contact information for our 2015 regional conventions. We made an error with the dates for the Southwest Regional Convention—the convention will be held on **August 14 and 15** (not August 8 and 9 as printed). The remainder of the information we published about the Southwest Region's convention is correct:

Location: Riverside Resort, Laughlin, Nevada

Host: Branch and Unit 70

Contact: RSSW Darvin Dalrymple at 619-992-9886, Darvin_FRA70@cox.net

Unit VP Michelle Caston at 760-803-5656, me-nrc@cox.net

We apologize for any inconvenience that this misprint may have caused.

Underseas Warfare News

Putin's Spy Submarines Target Clyde Defences

Ben Borland, Express UK, May 30

Francis Tusa spoke out after a number of senior RAF figures revealed that Vladimir Putin's navy is monitoring our Trident submarines as they emerge from the Clyde.

The Sunday Express also understands that the number of submarine-hunter Type 23 frigates operating off the west of Scotland has recently been increased from one to two as a direct result of the Russian threat. There were also fresh warnings of a new fishing boat tragedy, after a number of near-misses where trawlers nets snagged on mystery underwater objects.

The furore began when five retired senior officers urged the Government to replace Britain's axed Nimrod maritime patrol aircraft.

They said: We know that Russian submarines are monitoring the area from which our nuclear missile submarines emerge from the Clyde.

Without maritime patrol aircraft surveillance, opportunities for intelligence-gathering by such intruders can only prejudice the security and effectiveness of our strategic deterrent.

Indeed, it would be surprising if valuable intelligence had not already been acquired by the Russian Navy since the Nimrod force was grounded in March 2010.

The letter to the Daily Telegraph was signed by Air Marshall Sir John Harris, Air-Vice Marshall George Chesworth, Air-Vice Marshall David Emmerson, Air-Vice Marshall Andrew Roberts and Air Commodore Andrew Neal.

S. Korea, U.S. Start Joint Anti-Submarine Naval Drill Staff, Yonhap News Agency, June 1

SEOUL - South Korea and the United States have staged a joint anti-submarine naval drill to tackle North Korea's threats, sparked by the North's test-firing of a submarine-launched ballistic missile, the Navy said Monday.

The two allies kicked off the largest-ever combined anti-submarine exercise Saturday that will run through Wednesday in waters off South Korea's southern resort island of Jeju.

"The drill is aimed at deterring submarine-related provocations and beefing up the Navy's capacity to protect a southern maritime pathway, a key factor in maintaining operational logistics during war," the Navy said in a statement.

The exercise involves more than 10 vessels, including the Aegis destroyer Seoae Ryu Seong-ryong, two submarines and a P-8 Poseidon U.S. surveillance plane equipped with air-to-ground missiles, it added.

The five-day drill will include practical-level training based on diverse scenarios regarding Pyongyang's threats involving submarines, including tracing and identifying enemies' underwater capabilities and firing mines and bombs at them, according to the statement.

The move came after North Korea claimed last month that it had successfully test-fired a ballistic missile from a submarine in what could be a fresh threat to regional security. The North also said it has made nuclear warheads small enough to fit on missiles.

The allies began the biannual anti-submarine drills in 2012 as part of efforts to boost their underwater capabilities against threats from the North in the wake of its torpedoing of the South Korean warship Cheonan that killed 46 sailors.

"The exercise this time will be a chance to display a stern will that the allies' Navies will never tolerate North Korea's underwater provocations," said Nam Dong-woo, a one-star general that leads the program.

"The training will allow us to upgrade our anti-submarine multi-dimensional operations that involve maritime and airborne capabilities," he added.

North Korea is believed to have some 70 submarines, including about 20 1,800-ton Romeo-class vessels. It is also believed to be building a new submarine capable of firing missiles.

Sen. Collins Tours Yard With U.S. Labor Secretary Deborah McDermott, Portsmouth (NH) Herald, June 3

Thomas Perez declares 'culture of excellence'

KITTERY – Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez declared his day in Maine on Wednesday, at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and earlier at Bath Iron Works, “one of the best days on the job” since joining the Obama Administration.

Perez was joined by Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, who invited the secretary to the shipyard in particular to learn more about its apprenticeship programs and worker engagement efforts, which Perez called among “the most remarkable investments in human capital I’ve observed.”

Perez and Collins met with a dozen or more shipyard employees at the yard’s training facility, where currently 892 men and women apprentices learn the skills they will need to become fully trained workers.

Many of the ideas for training come directly from the workers themselves, as embodied in the shipyard’s “Declaration of Excellence.” Under the declaration, workers are encouraged to tell management cost-saving or time-saving measures that will help the U.S. Navy and better train apprentice workers.

Among the apprentices meeting with Perez and Collins was Jen Ouellette of South Berwick, a fourth-year apprentice welder. She said she had started a career as a journalist, but decided it wasn’t for her. From a shipyard family, she said decided to become an apprentice.

“I never thought at 27 I was going to become a welder on a nuclear submarine,” she told them.

As she gave them a tour of the mock submarine at the facility’s Learning Center, she said working at the yard has provided an opportunity for a “good, middle class life” for her and her family.

“I’m so proud of you,” said Collins later to Ouellette, “especially that you had the courage to start again.”

“It’s all about people like Jen,” said Perez, “people who show remarkable leadership and talent and who do this in defense of our country. She is part of a work culture here that is undeniably a culture of excellence.”

Collins said she brought Perez to the shipyard and to BIW in order to show him a model of worker training, as might be envisioned in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, a jobs training law that passed with bipartisan support last year and with leadership from Collins.

“I am so impressed with what we saw today here at the shipyard,” she said. “The involvement of workers in designing and running the programs is truly inspiring and impressive.”

She thanked Perez for coming “to the great state of Maine” and taking the time to see firsthand the work that the shipyard is undertaking.

Paul O’Connor, president of the Metal Trades Council at the shipyard, took Perez aside at one point, and said that the worker-centered model at the shipyard could “transform the public sector.”

Perez replied, “I can see the invested culture here, and culture is everything” on the job.

“We certainly have a template here that works,” said O’Connor.

“I couldn’t agree more,” said Perez.

4th Navy Sub Sailor Gets Prison In Shower Recordings Case Russ Bynum, Associated Press, June 2

MAYPORT NAVAL STATION, Fla. – A Navy sailor pleaded guilty Tuesday to secretly videotaping female trainees as they undressed for showers aboard a submarine, becoming the fourth crew member of the USS Wyoming to be sentenced to prison in a case that has tarnished the U.S. military's integration of women into its submarine fleet.

A court-martial sentenced Petty Officer 3rd Class Cody Shoemaker to 18 months in prison and a bad-conduct discharge. The 22-year-old missile technician told a military judge that twice last spring he used a cellphone to record female midshipmen from a tight crawlspace that looked into the shower area from beneath a sink.

"The Navy has brought women into the submarine force and the accused has not gotten onboard," Lt. Cmdr. Lee Marsh, a Navy prosecutor, said in asking the judge to "send a

message to that submarine force that all sailors, male and female, will be treated with dignity and respect."

In addition to midshipmen – students from the U.S. Naval Academy or college Navy ROTC programs – prosecutors say four female officers serving on the Wyoming were also recorded undressing and sailors traded the videos "like Pokemon" cards for energy drinks and other items.

Three other sailors pleaded guilty in the case last week and three more are still awaiting trial. The stiffest sentence so far has gone to Petty Officer 2nd Class Charles Greaves, who pleaded guilty to recording the female officers. He received two years in prison and a dishonorable discharge.

"That feels significant, but not out of the range I would expect to see," said Victor Hansen, a former military prosecutor and defense attorney who's now a professor at the New England School of Law.

With all defendants who have pleaded guilty so far sentenced to jail time, Hansen said, the Navy seemed to be saying "if you're involved at any level, this is going to be more than a slap on the wrist."

Last Wednesday, Petty Officer 2nd Class Joseph A. Bradley pleaded guilty to sharing videos of the officers and received 30 days confinement and a reduction in rank. Petty Officer 3rd Class Brandon McGarity, whose crime was failing to report the videos to superiors, got 15 days confinement and a reduction in rank after he pleaded guilty Friday.

No female trainees were called to testify against 22-year-old Shoemaker. Marsh said the sailor's victims were recorded "from the waist down" and couldn't be identified on the videos.

"I offer the most sincere apologies to the female midshipmen," Shoemaker told the judge. "I know that I have potentially swayed their decisions to become female officers on submarines."

The four female officers who were recorded by another sailor have said the videos either ruined or harmed their careers.

The charges to which Shoemaker pleaded guilty carry a maximum penalty of six years in prison, and prosecutors asked the judge to impose a three-year sentence. Shoemaker's defense attorney, Lt. Jennifer Buyske, told the judge he deserved no more than six months behind bars and noted he has a wife and two young children.

"You don't have a predator on your hands," Buyske said. "You have a young man who made terrible decisions."

South Korea Says It Tested Missile That Can Strike Anywhere In North *Choe Sang-Hun, New York Times, June 4*

SEOUL, South Korea – South Korea successfully test-fired its first ballistic missile on Wednesday with a range

far enough to hit any part of North Korea, Defense Ministry officials said.

With President Park Geun-hye watching, two missiles blasted off from a test site on the west coast of South Korea. The government released a photograph of a missile being fired from a tube mounted on what appeared to be a vehicle, suggesting that the model tested was a prototype for a mobile missile system.

South Korea has been developing a new ballistic missile since the United States agreed in 2012 to allow it to extend the range of those arms up to 800 kilometers, or about 500 miles, enough to reach any target in North Korea but not to threaten China or Japan.

Until then, mutually agreed-upon guidelines had barred South Korea from deploying ballistic missiles with a range of more than 185 miles and a payload of more than 500 kilograms, or 1,100 pounds.

A Defense Ministry spokesman, citing ministry policy, declined to reveal the range and payload of the missiles tested on Wednesday, except to say that they had a range sufficient to hit anywhere in North Korea. But South Korean news media, citing unidentified military sources, reported that the new missiles, code-named Hyunmoo-2B, had a range of more than 310 miles and a payload of 2,200 pounds.

South Korea's national news agency, Yonhap, said one or more of the new missiles would be deployed as early as late this year.

Ms. Park observed the test on Wednesday to "view South Korea's key military capabilities to counter North Korea's threats," said the president's spokesman, Min Kyung-wook.

North Korea has an arsenal of ballistic missiles that can reach all of South Korea and Japan, the two major allies of the United States in the region. It is also developing an intercontinental ballistic missile. Fears of its missile capacity have grown since it claimed in May that it had successfully test-fired a missile from a submarine. It also claimed that it has been building nuclear warheads small enough to be mounted on a long-range missile.

When the United States agreed to revise its missile guidelines for South Korea in 2012, it tried to balance its fear of a regional arms race with South Korea's concern over growing military threats from the North. Some installations in North Korea have been out of the range of South Korea's old ballistic missiles.

Under the revised guidelines, South Korea can deploy ballistic missiles with a range of up to 500 miles as long as their payloads do not exceed 1,100 pounds. It can also load warheads weighing as much as 4,400 pounds on ballistic missiles with shorter ranges.

Poland To Participate In Baltops Naval Exercises *Staff, Radio Poland, June 2*

A total of 49 ships from 15 different countries will take part in the 'Baltops' 2015 exercise this month, with the Polish Navy providing the largest single contingent.

Baltops is a U.S.-sponsored military naval exercise in the Baltic Sea, which Poland has been participating in since 1993.

This year the exercise will partially take place in the Polish port of Gdynia, before moving out to the Baltic and finally finishing in the German port of Kiel.

Przemysław Płonecki, a press spokesperson for the Polish 3rd Ship Flotilla, revealed that over 5,000 soldiers from 17 countries will take part in Baltops this year, with ships provided by 15 countries.

In addition, 40 aircraft will also participate, including American B-52 bombers.

Płonecki announced that the Polish Navy will provide the submarine ORP Kondor as well as two minelayer-landing ships and six minesweeper ships for the exercise.

Baltops will begin on the 5th June, and ships are expected to arrive in Gdynia from the 4th.

Between 14.00 and 16.00 on the 6th of June it will be possible for civilians to enter the military port in Gdynia to see some of the ships.

During the exercise around 700 soldiers will take part in a practice amphibious assault near the coastal tourist resort town of Ustka, to the west of Gdynia.

Apart from Poland, other participating countries will consist of the Netherlands, Denmark, Estonia, France, Latvia, Lithuania, the UK, the U.S., Turkey, Belgium, Norway, Canada, Germany, Finland, Sweden and Georgia.

Royal Navy To Let Sailors Smoke E-Cigarettes On Nuclear Submarines As 'They Aren't Fire Risk' (UK) Staff, Mirror, June 6

Sailors are set to be allowed to puff e-cigarettes in their nuclear submarines.

The move follows a fugitive whistleblower claiming unauthorised vaping was a safety risk.

Royal Navy medical officers now think there is no risk – and e-cigs would help ratings to give up real cigarettes, reports the Sunday People.

Weapons engineer William McNeilly, 25, went on the run after publishing an online dossier of alleged safety failings in the four-sub Trident fleet.

They included inadequate tests to see if missiles could be launched safely, alarm systems being muted because they kept going off and top secret documents being left unguarded.

McNeilly, who served aboard sub HMS Victorious, handed himself in and has now returned to duty.

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon dismissed his concerns as wrong or the result of misunderstandings.

Armed Forces Minister Penny Mordaunt said: "Only one of his allegations remains to be concluded – that electronic cigarettes were used on the submarine."

That made the Navy wonder whether e-cigs do pose a fire risk.

Ms Mordaunt said: "This is now being examined by the Institute of Naval Medicine to ascertain whether electronic cigarettes may be suitable for use on submarines."

Shadow Armed Forces Minister Kevan Jones said: "It seems top brass don't know what they're doing."

A MoD spokeswoman said: "There is clear evidence e-cigarette use would not have put safety of a boat at risk."

HASC Chair: Ohio Sub Replacement Costs Crowding Out Navy Programs Richard Sisk, DOD Buzz, June 9

The chairman of the House Armed Services Committee raised questions Tuesday about the ballooning cost projections for the Ohio class ballistic submarine replacement program that could threaten to shortchange other Navy priorities.

"I'm concerned about the Ohio class replacement," said Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Tex., and its potential to "crowd out all other shipbuilding in the Navy. We have other shipbuilding needs" besides the Ohio replacements, which are projected to cost about \$93 billion, Thornberry said.

Thornberry made the comments in a roundtable session with defense reporters a day after the Navy confirmed that it was looking into a possible violation of anti-lobbying laws by Adm. John Nicholson, the Navy's main Ohio replacement advocate and President Obama's nominee to succeed Adm. Jonathan Greenert as the next Chief of Naval Operations.

The review focused on whether Richardson may have violated rarely-enforced laws barring federal employees from lobbying the public when he enthusiastically backed the Ohio replacement program in a speech last year to the Naval Submarine League.

"Inform those in your sphere of influence, everyone from your Congressmen to your local PTA" of the merits of the replacement program, Richardson told the audience. His remarks were first reported by the Project on Government Oversight, a non-partisan watchdog group, and by Politico.

The current Ohio class submarines began their first patrols in 1981. The replacements were expected to be operational in 2030.

Thornberry's session with reporters came as the Senate continued debate on the proposed \$612 billion defense bill that President Obama has threatened to veto unless issues are resolved on the amounts allotted to the so-called "war budget" – the funding for Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO).

On Tuesday, the Republican-led Senate defeated an amendment offered by Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., the ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, which would have limited the amount of money available for the OCO account unless similar amounts were made available for domestic programs.

Despite the partisan debate, Thornberry said he expected the Senate to move fairly soon on the National Defense Authorization Act that would allow a conference committee of the House and Senate to begin discussions on a final bill.

"I would not expect the Senate or the House to be interested in – oh let's put this off again," Thornberry said. As far as he was concerned, "I'm ready to rock and roll as fast as we can," Thornberry said.

Submarine Warfare In House As Members Debate Best Method For Funding
Julian E. Barnes, Wall Street Journal Blog, June 10

Republican will be pitted against Republican in Congress Wednesday, as members of the House Armed Services Committee go up against congressional appropriators over how best to fund a new generation of nuclear-armed, ballistic missile submarines.

House Armed Services Committee members, worried that replacing the Navy's Ohio-class submarines would eat up a third of the service's shipbuilding budget, shifted funding to a Pentagon-wide spending account. However, new legislation backed by the Republican-dominated House Appropriations Committee would shift the costs back to the Navy.

A showdown vote on the issue is likely on the House floor Wednesday afternoon.

The fight is just the latest battle between members of Congress as they consider funding for various defense programs at a time when the military budget is under pressure from statutes meant to cut back government spending.

For the next fiscal year, the Navy requested \$1.4 billion in money to continue development of the new submarine. The project is expected to cost \$10 billion over the next five years, the second most expensive Pentagon program after the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

The House version of the annual defense authorization bill shifted the costs to the National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund account, originally created last year. That authorization measure received bipartisan support last month. And an amendment in another piece of legislation to return the spending to the Navy's account was defeated, 375-43.

Nonetheless, the move to fund a submarine building program outside of shipbuilding accounts struck some members of the House Appropriations Committee as an unacceptable budget gimmick. Appropriations committee members opted against the Armed Services Committee approach and advanced a bill returning the funding for the replacement submarines to the Navy budget.

The House Wednesday afternoon is expected to take up an amendment by Rep. Randy Forbes (R., Va.) to move the funding back out of the Navy account.

Rep. Forbes said funding the submarine project from defense-wide accounts would help ensure the new submarine project stays on track and that funding is not squeezed in the years to come.

"This is a national project and requires a national effort to implement," Rep. Forbes said in a statement. "The House, by a vote of 375-43 has overwhelmingly supported this program and recognized the importance of maintaining a credible undersea nuclear deterrent in the 21st century."

The House Appropriations Committee has noted that their bill fully funds the Navy's research and development requests. The committee's approach, said Jennifer Hing, a committee spokeswoman, also ensures that Congress can exercise close oversight and evaluate the program annually.

"The Appropriations Committee, like our counterparts on the House Armed Services Committee, believes that the Ohio-class replacement program is critical part of our national deterrent," Ms. Hing said in a statement.

Rep. Randy Forbes Defends Funding Strategy for New Subs
Hugh Lessing, The daily Press, June 15

Last week, Rep. Randy Forbes found himself in a familiar place: Explaining why Congress should pay for the Navy's top priority outside of the annual shipbuilding budget.

And for the second time in as many months, the Chesapeake Republican got his way in a debate that has implications for the nation and Hampton Roads.

For the Navy, a new fleet of ballistic missile submarines is a top priority, leaders have told Congress. Armed with long-range nuclear warheads, the boats will replace the aging Ohio-class submarine fleet that forms a major portion of the U.S. nuclear deterrent.

The Navy wants to buy the first one in 2021. Advance purchases would start in 2017, the Congressional Research Service said in March.

Only two U.S. shipyards build Navy submarines: General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, Conn., and Newport News Shipbuilding, a division of Huntington Ingalls Industries. The yards currently build smaller Virginia-class boats in a teaming arrangement. The subs are nuclear-powered, but carry conventional weapons.

The Navy hasn't yet said how it wants to build the Ohio-class replacements. Newport News is currently assisting on design of that new sub with Electric Boat in the lead. Newport News officials say they are interested in the construction work, which could lead to greater investments in the downtown shipyard by the state's largest industrial employer.

Forbes and Rep. Joe Courtney, D-Conn., say the Defense Department must pay for the submarines outside the Navy's annual shipbuilding budget or other shipbuilding projects could suffer. They support the National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund, a savings account that allows the Pentagon to squirrel away money in advance of construction, which by 2026 will ramp up to one sub per year.

The math is inescapable, supporters say. The new submarines will cost about \$5 billion each, using the Navy's best estimate. The Navy's 30-year shipbuilding plan calls for spending an average of \$16.7 billion each year across the entire fleet.

Without a separate fund, the Ohio-class replacement program "would wipe out most every other shipbuilding program," Forbes said last week.

Some in Congress don't like the idea of going outside the Navy's budget. Perhaps the Air Force could declare its long-range bombers a "national asset" because those aircraft carry nuclear weapons, and demand they be funded outside the Air Force budget, they say.

Those arguments came to a head last week in a rare floor fight on the House of Representatives. It pitted Forbes and Courtney – who authorize defense spending as members of the House Armed Services Committee – against lawmakers on the budget-writing Appropriations panel, who plug in the real numbers.

Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-N.J., a key appropriator, complained that the fund would allow money to be channeled away from other services for a Navy program. Joining him in opposition was Rep. Pete Visclosky, D-Ind.

The appropriations panel wanted to render the fund useless. It was up to Forbes, Courtney and other supporters such as Rep. Rob Wittman, R-Westmoreland, to submit language that restored the fund.

The House eventually voted to save the fund in a 321-111 vote and seed it with an initial \$1.4 billion. Last month, another lawmaker tried to eliminate the fund from the National Defense Authorization Act. That move failed 375-43.

Speaking after last week's floor debate, Forbes said hoped the debate will be put to rest – at least in the House. The Senate still hasn't weighed in. He said the Defense Department build the fund by sweeping in unspent monies as it sees fit.

"It just made good business sense to have a separate fund for this," he said.

He understands the concern about a precedent for other branches of the military. But he says the Navy's ballistic missile submarines form 70 percent of the nation's nuclear deterrent, and therefore share a greater burden.

Even critics of the fund acknowledge the need for the submarines, he said.

"We know we're going to build these ships," Forbes said. The issue for Congress is "how do you come up with the dollars without destroying other shipbuilding programs?"

Russia To Finish Building 'World's Stealthiest' Submarines By 2023 (Russia) Sounak Mukhopadhyay, International Business Times, June 16

Russia is going to complete building a series of seven Yasen-class nuclear submarines by 2023. The confirmation comes from Vladimir Dorofeyev, CEO of the Malakhit Marine Engineering Design Bureau.

It is believed that the Yasen-class vessels are the "stealthiest submarines" in the world. The submarines will be 13.5 meters wide, 119 meters long and 9.4 meters high. They will have a maximum speed of 31 knots submerged and 16 knots surfaced. The Yase-class submarines, touted as a deserving counterpart to the Seawolf- and Virginia-class submarines owned by the U.S. Navy, would upgrade the Russian navy's fleet.

Previous reports suggested that eight Yasen-class submarines would be constructed by 2020. Viktor Chirkov, commander-in-chief of the Russian navy, said the series would continue even beyond the 2020 deadline.

"In accordance with the state armaments program, the project to build a series of seven submarines will be completed after 2023," Dorofeyev told Russian news agency Tass. The first submarine of the Yasen class multipurpose nuclear submarines was the Severodvinsk. The Malakhit Design Bureau laid it down in 1993. The Russian navy put it into service with its operations testing in 2013.

The Severodvinsk, the 131st nuclear submarine built for the Russian navy at the Sevmas Shipyard, is the first in the Graney class of nuclear-powered attack submarines. Russia's Naval Doctrine said that the Yasen-class submarines would become the chief multipurpose nuclear vehicles for the Russian navy.

The Severodvinsk fired the cruise missiles five times in 2012. The missile was targeted at a surface while the submarine was submerged in the White Sea. There were five successive launches, all of which turned out to be successful.

Sputnik News reported in March that there would be a ceremony for the Arkhangelsk, the fifth Yasen-class nuclear submarine. The ceremony was scheduled to be held at Sevmas shipyard March 19.

It was reported that the Yasen-class submarines were believed to be the most advanced nuclear powered mul-

tipurpose underwater craft possessed by the Russian navy, which had been using older craft like the Akula class submarines from the Soviet era.

Did Navy Admirals Break the Law While Lobbying for Submarine Funding?

Danny Biederman and Noel Brinkerhoff, AllGov, June 16

An independent government watchdog has accused two high-ranking officials in the U.S. Navy of illegally lobbying lawmakers to support the building of new submarines.

The Project on Government Oversight (POGO) says Admiral John M. Richardson and Rear Admiral Joe Tofalo may have violated the Anti-Lobbying Act (pdf), which limits indirect lobbying of Congress by federal employees.

Richardson, nominated to become the next Naval Chief of Operations, and Tofalo, nominated to become vice admiral and commander of Naval Submarine Forces Atlantic, have told associates to pressure lawmakers into paying \$90 billion for replacements for new Ohio class submarines, according to POGO's Mandy Smithberger. Richardson urged attendees of the 2014 Annual Symposium Naval Submarine League to contact their congressional representatives to support the Ohio class replacement sub program and the Sea-Based Deterrence Fund.

Creating a separate, off-budget fund to finance Navy projects has been rejected in the past and, in the form of the Sea-Based Deterrence Fund, was turned down again this year by the House Appropriations Committee, reported POGO.

"Allowing the Navy to fund this program separately reduces discipline in the program and increases the likelihood of gross cost overruns," wrote Smithberger. "Moreover, it creates a bad precedent that any unaffordable weapons program should receive its own separate budget, a budgeting trick that would likely be repeated to fund the Air Force's bomber program... Every weapons program is [a] national asset, but just as the bomber should be paid for out of the Air Force's budget, this program should be paid for out of the Navy's budget."

Tofalo echoed Richardson's entreaty and promised that his office would support the lobbying effort, according to Smithberger.

Tofalo was quoted in several publications as having told NSL Symposium attendees: "Admiral Richardson talked about commander's guidance and getting the message out. He challenged all of you to go out and interact with folks, whether it's calling on your own Congressmen, or if you belong to some organization from the Chamber of Commerce to the Rotary Club. I am committed to help you do that. If anybody needs help in strategic messaging, then you call '1-800-N97' and let us know."

"Commander Martin Sprague, would you stand up?" Tofalo continued, according to the accounts. "Go slip him your business card on a break, and if you need trifold, priorities briefs, talking points for your Congressman, we are more than happy to support you."

The Navy is reviewing the two officials' statements to determine whether either of them violated the anti-lobbying law. POGO is calling for an independent review by the Government Accountability Office.

Editor's Note: *And the beat goes on!*

Pentagon Procurement Could See Dramatic Changes

Fawn Johnson, National Journal, June 17

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain has two ideas for radically changing the way the Pentagon does its shopping.

No. 1: Each new weapon or service contract should have one person, preferably a service chief, sign off on it and take responsibility for it from start to finish. No. 2: That person's military branch should pay a fine if the cost of the program goes beyond the original budget.

These two changes would represent an unhooking of the Pentagon as it now operates. They are some of the boldest provisions in the Senate's defense authorization bill, propelled by McCain's sense of urgency in curbing wasteful defense spending and also, tangentially, marking his place in the history books as a major Pentagon reformer.

"What the Pentagon has turned into is the absolute quintessence of 'Everybody's responsible, so therefore nobody is responsible,'" the Arizona Republican said in an interview.

DOD's centralized system of acquisition has perversely created a situation in which the commanders who ultimately will use a weapons system can weigh in only on how it will work. They don't have any authority over how it is researched, developed, or contracted. This inevitably leads to cost overruns because the proposed products get weighed down with unnecessary requirements dictated by people who, by design, see only one part of a bigger picture. If a Naval commander knew, for example, that his request for a gold-plated widget would add \$1 million to the engine of a new submarine, he might determine that a copper-plated one will do. If he never knows the cost consequences of his requests, it's hard to control the costs.

McCain likes to cite the \$2.4 billion cost overrun on the new Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier, which has the dubious distinction of being the single most expensive piece of military equipment ever. He was incensed last year when the chief of naval operations couldn't tell him who was responsible for that particular snafu. "Here's the chief of the service that can't tell you who's responsible for a \$2.4 billion cost overrun. Do you know what Arizona can do with \$2.4 billion? That would take care of every problem they ever had

for the next 10 years," he said.

This sentiment is at the heart of the acquisition changes in the National Defense Authorization Act: If you're going to spend taxpayer money, you'd better be willing to say that you know you're doing it. "The secretary of the Navy, now, when there is a new cost overrun, has to sign on the dotted line: 'I am aware that there is an additional cost to the catapults on the aircraft carrier,'" McCain said.

The proposal is reverberating throughout the uni-formed leadership of the Pentagon, according to a former committee staffer who declined to go on the record because of the sensitivity of the topic. Frank Kendall, DOD's under-secretary for acquisition, technology, and logistics, has expressed concern that McCain's proposal would give his office less legal power than the individual branches of the military. Of course, that's exactly what McCain is after, happily stating that power will be redistributed to the people who can make better decisions.

These changes wouldn't take all power away from the central acquisition office. In fact, some analysts predict that only a fraction of its authority would go away. The cost-overrun penalties wouldn't apply to procurements begun before 2009, for example, and the Defense secretary has the authority to designate point people for joint projects or "other specific cases," according to the committee report.

Still, the proposed new acquisition system deserves the dramatic labels that McCain proudly gives them. Current and former staffers of the committee say direct accountability for cost overruns is almost unprecedented. That simple alteration could serve up scapegoats for long-simmering frustrations about the massive amount of waste generated by poorly executed projects. Would those procurements work more smoothly if service chiefs were able to decide, for example, when it's time to move from a technological-development phase to a manufacturing and production phase?

There are lots of opinions about how procurement programs go wrong, but to date there has been little direction regarding whom to blame. Long-running weapons programs like the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter have been punching bags for members of Congress and defense analysts alike. But they have very little recourse for their complaints.

Here's an example: "The military would have gotten into a lot less problems if they had actually had working prototypes before they committed to a multibillion F-35 production," said Peter Singer, a senior fellow and military-technology specialist at the New America Foundation.

McCain feels similarly. "I fought it tooth and nail for years," he said.

But, when push came to shove, McCain allowed more orders for the F-35 to remain in the defense bill this year, regardless of the problems with the Joint Strike Fighter. "Once a weapons system gets to a certain level of production, it's impossible to kill," he said.

It's this type of runaway development that McCain is

trying to rein in, but it's impossible to know whether his idea for changing it will make things better or worse. For example, will the threat of a cost-overrun penalty make service chiefs cautious about trying out new commercial manufacturers or researchers, despite Congress's encouragement that they branch out beyond traditional contractors? Will different branches of the military all be working on similar projects?

One thing is clear. These changes, if they go through, will cause a dramatic shift within the Pentagon. That may make some programs work more smoothly, but it will also probably make others worse. Then, committee observers say, Congress will no doubt need to come back and tinker in 10 or 15 years.

One former committee staffer put it this way: "Frankly, at this point, any change is worth doing."

Editor: *And on!! Doesn't the Sen. Realize that service chiefs are appointed by the POTUS?*

Thresher Widow Reunited and Resting in Peace with Lost Husband at Sea

Lt.j.g. Daniel Mongiove, The Dolphin, Jun 18

ATLANTIC OCEAN - About 200 nautical miles east of Cape Cod, Mass., USS Annapolis (SSN 760) fulfilled the final request of devoted Navy wife and mother Irene Harvey, by laying her cremains to rest at sea with her husband, Lt. Cmdr. John Wes Harvey, on April 23.

Wes was the commanding officer of USS Thresher (SSN 593) when the submarine was lost at sea, on April 10, 1963, during sea trials.

All persons aboard perished, including 112 Navy personnel and 17 Portsmouth Naval Shipyard civilian workers and contractors.

Irene's idyllic life, having married her high school sweetheart when he graduated with distinction from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1950, and raising two young sons (Bruce and John), was shattered, along with the lives of all family members who suffered loss that day.

"When [my father] died I was 8 years old," recalled Bruce. "We always did things as a family, like going to the beach or visiting the pool at the officer's club."

In the face of tragedy, Irene persevered, noted Bruce with pride.

"She believed that the meaning of life is not to be found in mere survival. Instead, life's purpose is to be found somewhere in the process of caring, sharing, and loving," said Bruce. "As a nurse and Navy widow, [Irene] touched many lives."

Irene passed away at 87 years of age, on Tuesday, February 11, 2014, leaving behind Bruce; his brother John; Bruce's wife Maresa; and, two grandchildren, Laura and John.

She also left behind a last request: to be buried at sea alongside her husband.

In a solemn Navy tradition, USS Annapolis (SSN 760) fulfilled Irene's wish.

As the Los Angeles Class, fast-attack submarine transited from its homeport in Groton, Conn., to a shipyard maintenance period in Kittery, Maine, Annapolis paused near the last known location of Thresher.

With engines and all unnecessary work stopped, lights dimmed to low-level, and the national ensign lowered to half-mast, Annapolis Executive Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Jared Severson, conducted a religious service and the committal of Irene's remains. A gun salute and the playing of taps concluded the ceremony.

The chance to fulfill a Navy widow's wish, honor a Submariner who had made the ultimate sacrifice, and reflect on the loss of Thresher, was an important opportunity for the entire Annapolis crew, said the submarine's Commanding Officer Cmdr. Kurt Balagna.

"To reunite Cmdr. and Mrs. Harvey at sea was an honor," stated Balagna.

It was also somber, he said, as he thought about Thresher's loss due to a series of catastrophic events while conducting sea trials. After Annapolis' shipyard period, the submarine and crew will be conducting similar trials.

"My crew will be in a similar situation in two years when Annapolis conducts its own sea trials," noted Balagna. "The burial reminds us that submarining is a dangerous business and it's every Submariner's responsibility to remain vigilant and alert to ensure the safety of everyone aboard."

Such vigilance is the foundation of the Submarine Safety Program (SUBSAFE), instituted on Dec. 20, 1963, after the loss of Thresher, said Annapolis' Chief of the Boat, Master Chief Jason Avin.

"The men who lost their lives on USS Thresher paved the way for submarine force safety and process improvement," said Avin.

SUBSAFE provides maximum reasonable assurance that a U.S. Navy submarine maintains watertight integrity and the ability to surface should a boat experience flooding.

"By doing things right every day and staying vigilant, we do our best to honor the Sailors who took Thresher on eternal patrol," assured Avin.

For Bruce Harvey, Annapolis has done more than that; Annapolis honored his father and mother by reuniting them on eternal patrol.

Measuring War's Impact on Women Mark Thompson, Times, June 18

First-Ever Book on the Topic Assesses How Female Troops Fare

American women have been marching off to war in increasing numbers over the last generation. Soon, the Pentagon expects to lift its ban on their service in ground combat, its most demanding, dirtiest and bloodiest form. Is this a good thing?

In *Women at War*, Army veterans Elspeth Cameron Ritchie and Anne L. Naclerio have produced the first book detailing what war does to the physical and mental health of the growing number of women waging it. Featuring contributions from many military and academic experts, the volume doesn't advocate putting women in the trenches. "Women are already in combat," says Ritchie, a psychiatrist who earned three combat patches before retiring from the Army as a colonel in 2010. The book also doesn't wade into the controversy over whether women have the physical strength to accomplish the mission. Instead, it collects widely-scattered data about what combat does to women and puts it in one place to serve as guidance as the number of female soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines slowly rises.

Bottom line: women can do it, but it may not be easy.

Some 2.5 million women have served in uniform since the Revolutionary War, Lieut. General Patricia Horoho, the Army surgeon general, notes in the book's forward. "Given recent policy changes, by January 2016 it is expected that all military occupations, positions, and units will be open to women," she adds, "thus ensuring that they will play even larger roles in future military operations."

The number of women engaged in major U.S. combat operations is steadily growing. They climbed from 770 in 1989's Panama invasion, to 41,000 in 1991's Gulf War, to 300,000 in the post-9/11 Afghanistan and Iraq campaigns. About 15% of U.S. troops today are female. They represented 10% of those deployed to Iraq between 2003 and 2011, and 8% of those sent to Afghanistan between 2001 and 2013 (they were under-represented because they are generally barred from serving in combat units. That also accounts for the fact that they represented only 2.3% of U.S. troops killed in action).

More facts from the book:

- In the post-9/11 wars, women deployed nearly as frequently as men (1.5 times per male soldier; 1.3 times for females), and for nearly as long (10.9 months per male soldier; 10.5 months per female soldier).

- Women suffered slightly more psychological problems (15.1%) in the Afghanistan and Iraq war zones than men (14.9%).

- More men dispatched to the war zones were diagnosed with PTSD (3.9%) than women (3.0%).

- 15% of the soldiers who had to be medically evacuated out of the war zones for serious mental-health issues

were female.

The 40 contributors (including 10 men) write about women's health on the front lines and the challenges of being a soldier and a mother. "Mothers who deploy may be viewed as uncaring or negligent, rather than serving selflessly and patriotically," Army psychiatrist Elizabeth C. Henderson writes. "It is more culturally acceptable for men to go to war."

"I tried to avoid thinking of [my child] most of the time," a mother deployed to a war zone said. "I had something to do right after every phone call so that I would not retreat to my tent and start crying."

Women in uniform also are subject to shunning by their male colleagues. "Women who are working in primarily male career fields—or, as in the military, are breaking into previously closed combat positions currently held by males—may suddenly find themselves part of a social group that has difficulty fully accepting or integrating females," writes Pentagon psychologist Kate McGraw. "The negative impact of this type of behavior may intensify during periods of high stress, such as in combat or deployed locations."

But experience can ease such trepidation. "I felt tremendous pressure to live beyond reproach, and over time, I have learned that this is an incredibly intense, stressful, and ultimately unsustainable and inhumane way to live," then-Lieut. Paulette Cazares wrote of her first tour as a doctor aboard a U.S. Navy submarine. "Come the second year and second deployment, I was able to dance in bars at ports of call and enjoy a cigar with the CO and know I was on stable footing."

She also writes that her time aboard gave her the confidence she needed to save a young female sailor from dying of appendicitis on what was supposed to have been a quiet Thanksgiving. "At the beginning of that deployment, I would never known or had the courage to ... demand that a helo move faster," she recalls. "But a few months at sea made this girl a little saltier than she was when she left San Diego."

Being different can pose challenges when nature calls. "In 2011, with all our sophisticated battle systems and unarmed aircraft, women in combat were still wearing diapers because we hadn't figured out how they could take care of basic bodily functions in the back of an armored personnel carrier or transport vehicle," Naclerio says. There remains, after a decade of war, ignorance among both military women and their medical advisers about minimizing such issues, she adds. (Only 4.5% of women in Iraq in 2005-2006, for example, were using commercially available female urination devices, which allow women to relieve themselves like men.) Both Naclerio and Ritchie express surprise at how little research has been done to smooth the integration of women into the military.

Sexual assault is a "major issue" in the U.S. military, the book notes, and has received extensive professional and press coverage. But there has been scant attention paid to consensual sex in the ranks downrange. "A taboo area seems to be the sexual desires of women who deploy," the authors write. "But young women—and most women who deploy are

young—do have sexual desires, perhaps heightened by the daily exposure to death and close bonding in the combat zone." This taboo has led to a dearth of information. "We have very little knowledge of the actual amount of consensual sexual activity that is occurring during deployments between military members because very little research is done on that topic," writes Navy psychiatrist Ann Canuso. (Think of it as a new version of "don't ask, don't tell.") "Studies indicate that as many as 12% of deployed women had an unplanned pregnancy during deployment in 2008.

The dearth of women on the front lines makes them a rarity. But that's slowly expected to change. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said last month that he wants 25% of Marine recruits eventually to be women, more than triple their current 7% of the corps.

But until that happens (and Marines, both male and female, believe it's a tall order), women on the front lines will continue to feel like they live in a fishbowl. "My presence there seemed to make everyone stop and stare," one forward-deployed woman told Canuso of her visits to the gym. Some of their male counterparts acknowledged their role. One told Canuso about the time he was instructing other young men when a female colleague walked by in her workout gear. "We all just stopped and stared at her for almost a full 30 seconds," he said. "Then I just went back to teaching the men. I never would have done that stateside."

Navy Picks First Enlisted Women To Serve In Silent Service

Julia Bergman, New London Day, June 23

After receiving "a strong response fleetwide," the Navy announced on Monday that it has picked the first cadre of enlisted women who will start serving in the submarine service in 2016.

"We received an overwhelming response from women currently serving across the fleet in a variety of concentration areas, from the surface fleet, to our aviation community, to Seabees, to Sailors in the Fleet Reserve," Rear Adm. Chas Richard, commander, Submarine Group 10 and Enlisted Women in Submarines Task Force Commander, wrote in a post on the Navy's official blog.

The Navy released the names of the 38 enlisted female sailors who will fill four chief petty officer (E7 pay grade) and 34 rating conversion positions in the pay grades of E6 and below across the blue and gold crews of the USS Michigan, an Ohio-class guided missile submarine homeported in Bangor, Wash.

The Navy began recruiting the women in January. The women went through a competitive selection process and were scored on "performance evaluations, warfare qualifications, commanding officer endorsements, sea service time, physical readiness testing, and similarity of current rating to desired submarine rating," according to a news release from the Navy.

They will now undergo the routine submarine medical screening process and then begin their training at Basic Enlisted Submarine School in Groton.

The next window for applications will open in July. The second group of enlisted female submariners will be assigned to the USS Florida, an Ohio-class guided-missile submarine homeported in Kings Bay, Ga.

The selections are the next step in the Navy's plan to integrate women into the submarine force. Women officers began reporting to submarines in late 2011.

Navy officials have described the integration of female officers, who were first invited aboard ballistic missile submarines in 2010, as a smooth and successful process.

But the service was dealt a blow when news broke in December that a dozen sailors were under investigation for secretly recording their female shipmates in the dressing area of the USS Wyoming, an Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine based in Kings Bay.

The Wyoming was one of the first submarines to which female officers were assigned in late 2011.

Sailor Not Guilty Of Distributing Nude Videos, Judge Finds

Associated Press, June 23

MAYPORT NAVAL STATION, Fla. – A military judge on Tuesday found a submarine sailor not guilty of distributing videos of female officers undressing for the shower, making him the first cleared of wrongdoing in the case.

The ruling came in a general court-martial for Petty Officer 3rd Class Samuel Buchner, the fifth sailor charged in the videotaping scandal aboard the USS Wyoming.

The women who were secretly videotaped were among the first to serve on U.S. submarines. The case has highlighted the Navy's struggles in adding women to its sub force.

Buchner was charged with conspiring to distribute videos using his cellphone and sending the videos to another sailor. His attorney said in an earlier hearing that Buchner didn't know what he was sending.

"Buchner has asserted from the beginning that he did not know what these files were before he transferred them to another sailor," said Lt. Tracy Waller, his attorney, in a statement. "We are extremely pleased that he was exonerated today, and we hope that his withheld promotion will be restored immediately."

Buchner is the first of the sailors to not plead guilty in a case that has sent four others to prison.

Navy prosecutors say the videos were shot by another sailor, Petty Officer 2nd Class Charles Greaves. He was sentenced to two years in prison and a dishonorable discharge after pleading guilty last month.

Three other sailors have also received prison time related to distributing the videos.

Prosecutors accused the men of trading the videos "like Pokemon" cards in exchange for energy drinks and other items.

All three women testified in previous trials, saying the ordeal had ruined or derailed their otherwise promising careers.

Buchner's defense attorney did not immediately return a request for comment on the judge's decision.

Russia Is Already Developing New Fifth-Generation Submarines (Russia) Zachary Keck, National Interest, June 23

Fresh off building the fourth-generation Yasen-class submarines, Russia is already developing a fifth-generation submarine.

Vladimir Dorofeyev, CEO of Russia's Malakhit Marine Engineering Design Bureau, told TASS last week that "The work on the fifth generation of submarines is already underway. The project will be implemented after the Yasen nuclear submarine construction project is completed."

This was subsequently confirmed by Admiral Viktor Chirkov, the commander-in-chief of the Russian Navy. Speaking at the Army 2015 international military and technical forum in Moscow last Wednesday, Chirkov said that "In order to avoid pauses and standstill, we have started design work on developing submarines of the next, i.e. fifth generation."

Both men said the submarines would be built within the Russian shipbuilding program through 2050, although they did not have a precise estimate of when the boats would first be launched.

There also only gave limited details of the sub's design, likely because the concept is still being developed. Dorofeyev did say that the fifth-generation submarines would focus on "network centric" capabilities, which would reduce the primary importance of its dimensions and speed.

Regarding the reactor, Dorofeyev stated that "The reactor [of the subs] will be certainly based on new principles, but there will be no revolution, and it is not needed after all."

Meanwhile, Admiral Chirkov hinted that robotics would play a central role in the new class of submarines. According to Chirkov, the navy's emphasis will be "on the universal nature" of the submarines use "and the efficiency of their control and armament systems." He added that "In particular, the vessels' combat capabilities will be raised through the development of unified modular platforms of different displacement and the integration of promising robotized systems into their armament."

The U.S. Navy has long been seeking to integrate submarines into network centric warfare. As far back as 2002, National Defense magazine reported: "The submarine of 2020, according to the Navy's long-term blueprint for undersea warfare, will interact with unmanned underwater, surface and air vehicles. Further, it will be equipped to launch

non-Navy weapons, such as Army tactical missiles.”

It went on to explain:

One scenario, for example, would have the submarine lay sensors on the ocean floor, creating an “information grid” that would feed the naval battle group commander valuable intelligence. The sensors would be linked to unmanned undersea vehicles (UUVs) and pilot-less drones (UAVs) that would fly over the battle zone. The information grid would help the commander, who may not even be anywhere near the submarine, gain control of the situation.

It has sought to turn this vision into a reality with the Submarine Warfare Federated Tactical System (SWFTS) program, which aims to integrate all submarine combat subsystems into a single architecture.

Russia’s fifth-generation submarine is likely to remain a distant aspiration for some time. It was only last year that the Russian Navy officially accepted the first Yasen-class submarine into service. Construction on that ship, named the K-560 Severodvinsk, had begun in 1993. Design of the Yasen-class submarine began in the 1980s under the Soviet Union.

Student Engineers Pool Their Talents For Human-Powered Submarine Race

Wilborn P. Nobles III, Washington Post, June 25

Teddy Schwalm found himself nearly two-dozen feet underwater, trying to steer a mini submarine inside an enormous indoor pool. But the 15-year-old was having trouble keeping his feet on the pedals that powered the submarine, and he started to lose control of the contraption.

Sockets popped out of panels, an alarm started blaring, and rescue divers jumped in and hauled him back to the pool’s edge.

“Not a big deal,” said Rizwan Ramakdawala, who was supervising 25 students in a week-long competition to build human-powered subs. “We’ve haven’t had a problem for the first two runs, but it was bound to happen.”

Hundreds of high school and college students from across the globe are spending the week inside a giant warehouse in Bethesda in a competition meant to encourage them to expand their engineering and science skills. And hoping to walk away with bragging rights as the winner of this week’s 13th International Submarine Races.

Teddy and Ramakdawala’s team — KIDS Team Nautilus — was one of 22 in the contest. Each team was required to design a submarine from scratch.

“The real challenge is bringing all these disciplines together in a design spiral,” said Retired Navy Capt. Charles Behrle, president of the Foundation for Underwater Research and Education, the nonprofit organization that holds the annual event.

Behrle said the competition gives students hands-on

experience with engineering challenges that professionals encounter. Students have nine hours to compete for the best time as they try to correct any problems that arise.

“It’s essentially a drag race underwater,” said Ben Gingras, a 19-year-old junior at Virginia Tech studying aerospace engineering. Gingras is a part of team Virginia Tech HPS, which brought two submarines — the Phantom 6 and the Phantom 7 — to the event.

The orange Phantom 6 won an award in innovation previously, but the team plans to retire the 8-year-old, two-person-powered submarine after this competition, which ends Friday.

“Eight years and she hasn’t crossed the finished line,” said Ben Rothberg, a 20-year-old mechanical engineering junior from Virginia Tech who co-pilots Phantom 6.

Like Behrle, those involved in the event said they view it as an opportunity for students to bring together their knowledge of the science, technology, engineering and mathematics concepts taught in school through activities that are entertaining and that prepare them for careers.

“At least in my freshman year, in classes there weren’t a ton of engineering opportunities,” said Thomas Maulbeck, a 19-year-old materials science engineering freshman at Virginia Tech. Maulbeck said he enjoys being able to be on a design team for a submarine project as a freshman.

There’s another level of difficulty getting to the competition, Behrle said: Several U.S. and international teams must find sponsors to help pay for the supplies and development of their projects.

Getting support can be a challenge, participants said, and affect their projects’ quality.

In many cases, family members are part of the team. Ramakdawala’s son, Zaahid, also participates on Nautilus. Zaahid learned how to use Fiberglass for the material of the watercraft, among other skills.

“I learned so much that I never knew anything about,” said Giselle “Gigi” Leblanc, 9, of Waldorf, who is also on the team.

Teams set up portable gazebos outside the facility. On Tuesday, students walked around the compound as they hung up wet scuba suits before adjusting their submarines.

People inside the facility sat at a table along the 30,000-foot-long course and recorded submarine speeds with some of the several computers on the table.

Students who take part in the competition are often later recruited for engineering programs and internships at colleges and companies, organizers said, who added that they hope the event will help inspire other young students to stick with the sciences.

"The United States needs scientists and engineers," Behrle said.

Growing Market for Chinese Submarines

Staff, DefenseWorld.net, June 26

The market for Chinese submarines seem to be on the rise even as the overall world demand for subs has witnessed a downward trend.

The news today that Thailand has selected a Chinese manufacturer to build submarines beating bids from Russian, Swedish, German and French manufacturers, if true, is an indication of the maturity of the Chinese submarine industry.

China has in the past sold submarines overseas before but they were direct orders from Bangladesh and Pakistan. But this is the first time that it has been selected in an open competition.

The news, though not an official confirmation from the Thai government or Navy has suggested that the Chinese bid may have been selected due to its unusually low price of US\$ 335 million for each submarine.

Bangladesh has finalized a deal to purchase Two-Ming-class submarines for \$203 million in February 2014. The type 035G diesel-electric run submarines are scheduled to be delivered in 2019.

Pakistan has approved buying of eight submarines from China for US \$5 billion in April this year. The submarine deal likely involved is a Type 039-class diesel-electric vessel equipped with an advanced air-independent propulsion system, which would allow the warship to stay and operate underwater much longer.

The Royal Thai Navy had received offers from Russia, Sweden and France. China's Yuan-class (Type 041) submarine had been pitted against Russian Kilo-class Project 636 diesel electric submarine, Swedish Saab AB A-26 class submarines and South Korea's U209 model were part of the competition.

Senior Chief Starts 2nd Career – In Silent Service

Mark D. Faram, Navy Times, June 27

Cassie Clark is realizing a dream she first had 18 years ago – the chance to qualify in submarines.

Clark is a year away from crossing the 20-year mark and as a senior chief has another six to go before mandatory retirement. She plans to spend that time as a member of the Silent Service, living a dream she first had as a young seaman.

"My first duty station out of 'A' schools was at the [personnel support detachment] at the submarine base in Bangor, Washington," she said in a June 24 phone interview. "I always liked the professionalism I saw in the submarine force, but at the time the duty was closed to me – but I do remember thinking that someday the Navy might open up this duty to women and hoping I would be able to apply when that

happened and now it's here."

She's got two warfare pins to her credit, wearing both the Enlisted Surface Warfare and the Enlisted Aviation Warfare specialist, but isn't taking her next one for granted.

"I know there're challenges ahead, but I'm up for it," Clark, 41, said of the rigorous qualification process to earn her submarine dolphins.

As a senior chief personnel specialist, she'll convert to the submarine yeoman rating when she joins the submarine service in the next few months to begin training. As the most senior member of the first cadre of enlisted women submariners, she's also aware she needs to lead them as they train up and join their crews on the guided-missile submarine Michigan in fiscal year 2016.

She's no stranger to sea duty. She first served at sea on the Spruance-class destroyer Paul F. Foster and has also done three-year tours at sea aboard the forward-deployed aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk in Japan and on the cruiser San Jacinto.

Her shore duty has been at other PSDs until her current assignment to the Pentagon, working for the Navy's senior leadership.

She said she thinks her surface fleet experience will help her, but also that she's entering a whole new world and is anxious to get started.

"This is a tremendous leadership opportunity, but I've got a lot of work ahead of me to get trained and get to the boat and get qualified in submarines," she said. "But as a chief, I also have to lead and mentor the young women sailors selected with me to make sure we get this right and have a successful integration of women into submarines."

Fund U.S. Deterrent Programs Editorial, Defense News, June 29

The U.S. decision to move 250 tanks, armored personnel carriers and howitzers to the Baltics, Bulgaria, Germany, Poland and Romania is a welcome signal for NATO allies worried about Russia.

While new and existing gear is being moved forward, U.S. troops stationed in Europe will hardly increase. Rather, U.S. soldiers will be rotated through the region for training.

The message would have been more powerful had Washington also said it would stop withdrawing forces from Europe and start meaningfully increasing them. More equipment is reassuring, but more forces indicates a stronger commitment to allies on the borders of a bellicose Russia.

The reality is, stability worldwide often depends on the presence of U.S. forces.

South Korea and Japan just celebrated 50 years of

peaceful post-World War II-relations that fostered unprecedented economic growth made possible by U.S. forces in both countries.

On the other side of the world, U.S. forces and diplomats were equally key in forging a prosperous Europe. While NATO's heightened activity in the wake of Russia's Ukraine campaign has been criticized by some as ineffective, even Russian President Vladimir Putin has said he'd be crazy to attack a NATO country and trigger wider war.

Still, Moscow continues to raise tensions, threatening NATO and European nations with nuclear weapons and violating the Ukraine cease-fire even as a new truce is negotiated. NATO's long-term Russia strategy must include more training and equipment, but also more troops. More shoes in offices are welcome, but in this case, there's also a need for more boots on the ground.

And as long as Russia resorts to nuclear intimidation, America and its allies must invest in deterrent capabilities. When Washington confirmed that it would – as it had hinted for months – return a token force of heavy weapons to Europe, Russia countered it would add another 40 nuclear ballistic missiles to its arsenal this year.

As Deputy U.S. Defense Secretary Bob Work recently noted, Russia's willingness to flaunt its nuclear capabilities is a scare tactic to intimidate the United States and its allies. While Russia's aggression is improving NATO solidarity, it also makes it clear the United States must take a far more strategic view of its nuclear modernization needs, given that each leg of America's nuclear triad requires either replacing or upgrade. According to Work, that will cost DoD "an average of \$18 billion a year from 2021 to 2035 in FY16 dollars," or about 7 percent of the projected DoD spending in the 2020s when these programs peak.

During that period, the Navy must replace its Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines, and the Air Force will acquire its Long-Range Strike Bomber while upgrading its Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missiles. That doesn't include the staggering costs of revitalizing the nation's nuclear weapons infrastructure that is quite literally crumbling after decades of underinvestment.

DoD's problem is that without relief from budget caps, it will have to cover the cost of these massively expensive programs within a fixed budget. That means the Air Force and Navy will have to gut other ship, aircraft and weapons programs that can manage escalation and deter conventional aggression.

For decades, nuclear systems have underpinned U.S. deterrent capabilities. They will be increasingly important in a world where competing powers are revitalizing their nuclear and conventional capabilities. The key to deterrence is convincing adversaries that America's nuclear arsenal is modern, capable, reliable and formidable enough to avoid a potentially devastating miscalculation. The right message is to properly resource these key programs as a strategic investment in the nation's security.

Sailor Sentenced To 10 Months For Videos Of Female Officers *Associated Press, June 29*

MAYPORT NAVAL STATION, Fla. – A submarine sailor pleaded guilty Monday to illegally videotaping female officers in the vessel's shower area and was sentenced to 10 months in a Navy brig.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Ryan Secrest also received a bad conduct discharge and a reduction in rank.

Secrest, a missile technician, is among seven sailors who served aboard the USS Wyoming out of Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base who are charged in the case. The video scandal has disrupted the Navy's integration of women into its submarine force.

Navy prosecutors say the men waited until the officers were done working out in the ship's gym, and then secretly made recordings of them in the shower area.

The men then traded the videos "like Pokemon" cards for items like energy drinks, prosecutors said.

The women in the videos were among the first to serve on subs. They all had promising military careers that were disrupted and derailed by the incident, the victims said in previous testimony.

Military prosecutors said Secrest in 2014 used the camera on his cellphone to take a video of the officers. They also said he lied to investigators about the incident afterward.

Secrest declined to comment on the case through his defense attorney, Lt. Clay Bridges.

So far, four other sailors involved in the case have been found guilty. One was found not guilty.

4th Russian-Made Kilo Submarine Arrives In Vietnam

Staff, Global Post, June 30

A freighter carrying the fourth Kilo-class submarine made by Russia for Vietnam has arrived on Tuesday morning at Cam Ranh gulf in Vietnam's south central coastal Khanh Hoa province, some 1,040 km south of capital Hanoi.

After one and a half months voyage from Russia's Saint Petersburg, the submarine, which was made under the contract between Vietnam and Russia to build six of its kind, will be released into the sea after several days, reported Vietnam's state-run news agency VNA.

The submarine is nearly 74 meters in length with displacement of 3,000-3,950 tons. It is able to operate at a maximum depth of 300 meters and at a speed of 20 nautical miles per hour with 52 crew members on board, reported VNA

The Kilo-submarines will be called under the names of major cities and provinces of Vietnam. Earlier, the country received three of the submarines, namely HQ-182 Hanoi, HQ-183 Ho Chi Minh City, and HQ-184 Hai Phong. The fourth submarine is set to be named Da Nang, a centrally controlled city in central Vietnam.